

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Annual Report for the Year 1993

The Council has the honour to present to members the following report on the activities of the Society during the year.

Council and Office Bearers

Patron
Her Majesty the Queen

President
His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania
General Sir Phillip Bennett, AC, KBE, DSO

Vice-Presidents
Mr J.T.W. Hayton
(on leave from 5 August 1993) Dr M.R. Banks AM

Council
Mr R. Banks
Ms V. Buchanan
Dr R.A. Herr
(resigned May 1993)
Mr P.C. Stevenson Dr A.V. Brown
Ms M. Cameron AM
Dr P. McCartney
Dr J.G. Thorne
Mr C.B. Tassell

Honorary Secretary
Ms P. Sabine

Minute Secretary
Ms S. Waterhouse

Honorary Treasurer
Mr T.A.H. Knight

Honorary Auditor
Mr T.O. Bayley FCA

Honorary Editor
Dr M.R. Banks AM

Honorary Assistant Editor
Dr S.J. Smith

President

His Excellency General Sir Phillip Bennett took the chair as President of the Society at the Annual General Meeting. He presided over a number of significant events during the year, which included the Sesquicentenary Dinner at Drysdale House, 24 March 1993, to launch the Society's special publication of James Backhouse Walker's *Walk to the West* edited by Professor D.M. Stoddart; the Sesquicentenary Celebrations held by the Northern Branch on 6 August 1993; and the presentation of the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal, the R.M. Johnston Medal and the Clive Lord Medal at a Special Meeting, 19 July 1993.

His Excellency hosted a reception at Government House for members of the Society on 14 October (the anniversary of the first meeting) to celebrate the Sesquicentenary.

Deaths

The deaths of the following members are recorded with regret:

Mr E. C. Gifford AM
Sir George Crawford KB

Obituaries

Edwin Chester Gifford AM
died 2 August 1993 in Hobart

A member since 1960, Mr Gifford, former Chief Manager of the Commonwealth Bank, had many philanthropic and cultural interests. He was the Society’s Junior Vice President, 1970, Senior Vice President, 1971, and a Councillor from 1968–69 and from 1972–74 inclusive.

Sir George Crawford KB
died 22 October 1993 in Launceston

Sir George was member of the Society for 54 years from 1939. He made significant contributions to the Society in his various roles as Chairman of the Northern Branch, Council Member of the Northern Branch, representative of that Branch on the Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park Board, and with Frank Ellis and Hawley Stancombe, he edited the Wedge Diaries for publication by the Society

Honours and Awards

The Society congratulates the following members on honours received:

Dr Shirley Jeffrey AM
Mrs Mary Cameron AM
Mr John Kennedy OAM

Membership

The membership is 470, a increase of 59 (or 14.3%) over the previous year, and is made up as follows:

	Southern	Northern	Total
Honorary Life Members	5	2	7
Life Members	22	11	33
Ordinary Members receiving <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	249	52	301
Ordinary Members not receiving <i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	63	41	104
Associate Members	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>25</u>
	355	115	470

Council Meetings

The Council met six times during the year and in addition held a special corporate planning session with Management Consultant and Royal Society member, Bryce McNair on 7 October 1993.

Corporate Plan
Issues considered by the Council members attending included defining the Society’s role, function or mission, and its relevance to to-day’s world. A vision for the future, the clarification of objectives, and an assessment of the Society’s strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities

have provided options from which the Council can develop an action plan outlining the future direction, development and promotion of the Society for consideration by the membership in the coming year.

Future Directions Questionnaire
Early in 1993 a questionnaire was circulated to assess members’ views and attitudes. There were some 140 replies. The Society was perceived as worthwhile and having some considerable achievements in the past. Issues to be addressed included improving the condition of the Royal Society room and the range of topics addressed at the monthly meetings. Council has noted these responses in its planning throughout the year.

Sesquicentennial of the Society

The Society’s sesquicentennial in 1993 was marked by three main events, the earliest being the publication of *Walk to the West*. Written by James Backhouse Walker, it is an account of a journey by a party of explorers, mostly Royal Society members, from Hobart to Waratah in 1887.

This account was edited by Professor D.M. Stoddart and illustrated with reproductions of paintings and sketches by the Tasmanian artist, W.C. Pigenit, who was, for some part of the journey, one of the party. The book was designed, printed and bound in Tasmania and won two printing industry (PICA) awards including the Gold printing award for all categories of printing work.

Donations from learned societies around the world, the Australian business community, the Federal and State Governments, the City of Hobart and the University of Tasmania, together with advance orders for over 300 copies assured the financial viability of the project. The book was launched by the President at a well-attended dinner at Drysdale House on 24 March 1993.

The Northern Branch celebrated the Sesquicentennial with a dinner, attended by the President and Lady Bennett, on 6 August, at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston. In an after-dinner speech, Dr Banks outlined the history of the Society.

The anniversary of the first meeting of the Society was marked by a special reception for members given by the President and Lady Bennett at Government House. It was a memorable function and very well attended.

Grants to the Society

The Council received a general grant from the Tasmanian Government, through Arts Tasmania, of \$2000 towards the Society’s administration and promotion, and a special grant from the Tasmanian Government of \$3000 towards the Society’s publication program.

The University of Tasmania has provided an annual subvention of \$3000 towards the publication costs of the *Papers and Proceedings* of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

Library

The year under review has been one of continued progress and consolidation of projects begun in the previous two years.

The recatalogued and reclassified collection continues to grow as material is transferred from the older sequences. Several programs are under way to identify titles for which University cataloguing data are available, and the fairly easy task of transferring this material to the new sequences is continuing — mostly in cases where the older records are inadequate. To facilitate this program, the card shelf-list sequences are being checked against the data-base and notes made for titles which are candidates for easy transfer.

The consolidation of various sequences of valuable material is also being undertaken in conjunction with the re-cataloguing, and such material will eventually be filed in one "Rare" sequence over the two rooms allocated for such storage. The transfer to the open shelves of some less vulnerable but now electronically controlled items will allow for a consultation table in one of these rooms, when less shelving will be necessary.

The Couchman collection, donated to the Library in 1992, was completely integrated during the year and formed a significant part of the newer collection. Apart from this donation, the cataloguing backlog which has been part of the Library's recent history has been eliminated.

During the year a review of binding was undertaken and annual requirements submitted as part of the University Library Survey, and binding requirements of the Royal Society will be considered when final allocations are made during 1994. A clean-up of the sample cases was also completed during the year, with only the cases for titles still requiring binding being retained. Overall, 181 volumes were bound during the year.

Staffing for the Library remained the same, with Graeme Rayner, the University's Collection Development and Special Collections Librarian, continuing as the Royal Society's Librarian. Clerical help was again provided by Mrs Carol Freeman with additional help for five hours each week from Mrs Emilia Ward.

Towards the end of the year the Librarian moved to accommodation elsewhere in the building and Mrs Freeman moved her operations into the office area. This move has created additional Library space for study and display purposes, together with additional shelving space for the expanding recatalogued collections.

The Library was painted throughout the year — as part of the total repainting of public areas in the Morris Miller building. Minimal disruption to users and staff was achieved during this time. The weeding program is continuing, though on a reduced scale, and it is planned to offer weeded items for sale, initially to members and subsequently through the University Library Book sale.

During the year, all non-file copies of the *Papers and Proceedings* were returned to the Museum for storage. The lack of Library involvement in the distribution of *Papers and Proceedings* — other than the exchange copies — had removed the necessity for any additional copies of the *Papers and Proceedings* at the Library.

Exchange copies of Volume 127 of *Papers and Proceedings* were mailed to exchange partners during November/December.

Statistics for 1993 are as follows:

Binding	181 volumes
Visitors	404
Inter-library loans	34
In-house consultations	177
Serial loans	63
Inter-campus loans	4

Publications

Volume 127 of the *Papers and Proceedings* was published in October. In addition to the annual report for 1992, it contained ten papers totalling 66 pages. Nineteen authors contributed, most from Tasmania but five from overseas. Topics ranged widely — history, botany and mammals — but most concerned various aspects of ecology, modern and ancient.

Tasmanian Wilderness — World Heritage Values, the volume of up-dated papers delivered at symposium in late 1990 was published in November and jointly launched by the Hon. Duncan Kerr MHR, Federal Minister for Justice and the Hon. John Cleary MHA, Minister for Lands and Environment on 7 December.

Mrs Alison Jones was the expert sub-editor and Mrs June Pongratz the skilled typesetter for both publications. Dr M. Banks and Dr S. Smith were the editors, the former with the main responsibility for the *Papers and Proceedings*, the latter for the World Heritage publication.

Lectures

The following lectures were given at General Meetings during the year:

- February — "The life and art of W.C. Piguenit" Dr A.V. Brown and Dr C. Johannes
- March — "The first fifty years of the Royal Society" Mrs Gillian Winter, Tasmaniana Collection
- April — "Atmosphere, weather and the greenhouse effect" Professor Garth Paltridge FAA, Director of the Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies, University of Tasmania, and Mr Hugh Hutchinson, Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology
- May — "Forum on Cambodia" Dr R. Rigby, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Sam Malone, AIDAB, and Captain David Clotha, Australian Defence Forces
- June — "Sealer sites on Heard Island" Ms Angela McGowan, Archaeologist, Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania
- June — "Hibernation in the echidna — old views and new data" Dr Stewart Nicol, Physiology Department, University of Tasmania
- July — "The Tasmanian Aboriginal community to-day — a continuing culture" Mr Jim Everett, President, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
"Indigenous issues in the international arena" Mr Colin Milner, Head of Human Rights and Social Law Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra
- July — "Simulating how the deep earth works" Professor David Green, FRS, FAA, University of Tasmania, Royal Society Medallist 1993
- August — "Microscopic marine plants: their global role" Dr Shirley Jeffrey, AM, FAA, Chief Scientist, CSIRO Division of Fisheries, R.M. Johnston Memorial Medallist 1993
- September — "The law and morals" His Grace the Archbishop of Hobart, Dr Eric D'Arcy, and Mr Justice Pierre Slicer
- October — "Proceedings of a Museum Director" Mr Don Gregg, Director, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (1972–91), Clive Lord Memorial Medallist 1993

November — Panel Discussion: How old are Tasmanian mountains? Mr D.G. Hannan, Mr S.M. Forsyth, Professor E.A. Colhoun, Mr J.K. Davidson, Professor R. Hill, Dr M.R. Banks (Convenor)

November 22 — “Slide rules and their history” Mr Ralph Rallings, Roads Tasmania

In addition new initiatives were added to the public program: these included a debate sponsored by the Royal Society, 7ZR and 7NT, broadcast on ABC Radio, entitled “That it is the media and not politicians who trivialise politics”.

Northern Branch

Branch Council

Chairman	Mrs M Cameron
Vice Chairman	Mr B Chamberlain
Honorary Secretary	Mr C Tassell
Honorary Treasurer	Mr B. Pike
Council Members	Mr J. Kolkert
	Mr A. Schofield
	Mr A. Orr
	Dr M. Temple-Smith
	Mrs G. Moris

The Branch Council met several times during the year.

Meetings and Lectures

March — Annual General Meeting and “Then and now” Mr A. Orr

April — “Aspects of the Tamar River” Sir Ray Ferral

May — “Recent heritage of the Mawson base” Ms E Wishart

June — Members Night

“Bangor quarry” Mr B. Chamberlain

“Measuring unemployment” Mr B. East

“Bungaree, the king without a kingdom” Mrs D. Girvan

“Nuclear fallout for peaceful use” Dr M. Temple-Smith

“There are good bugs too” Mr B. Pike

September — “Toxic blue-green algal blooms in Australian waters” Dr S. Blackburn

October — “Pasture plants and genetic resources for Tasmania” Dr B. Reid

November — “Tasmanian tree frogs” Dr P. Swiatkowski

December — Members Night

“Stephen Cheek” Mr A. Orr

“Electric Cars” Mr J. Kolkert

“Blind Music Students” Mr P. Webb

Excursions and Functions

June — Excursion to Beams Quarry

July — Visit to the Regional Library, Ms J Hollingsworth

August — Sesquicentenary Dinner: History of the Royal Society, Dr M.R. Banks, AM

Nominees to Other Bodies

The Council elected Dr P.G. Quilty and Professor D.M. Stoddart to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. They report on the year’s activities:

The period of appointment for the four Trustees appointed by the Governor in Council on the advice of the Minister of Education expired in 1993. Retiring Trustees were Ms Jooles Whittle, Ms Austra Maddox and Mr Jonathan Holmes.

Reappointed was Mr Alan Blow, Chairman, and new appointments were Mrs J. Freeman, Dr Coleman O’Flaherty and Ms J. Taranto.

As part of its Strategic Plan the TMAG adopted the following Mission statement:

“The mission of the TMAG is to collect, preserve, display, research and interpret the physical evidence and the accompanying intellectual, scientific and social context of the natural and cultural heritage of Tasmania, together with relevant material from beyond the State and from beyond Australia for the benefit of scholars, researchers, visitors and members of the Tasmanian community.”

1993 was a year of further consolidation for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

The staff restructuring was implemented with the following appointments and resignations:

Dr Kantvilas, was appointed Co-ordinating Curator of Sciences and Head of the Herbarium; Mr Roger Buttermore, was appointed Curator of Invertebrates; Ms Alison Melrose, was appointed Curator of Information Services and Decorative Arts; Dr Christa Johannes retired as Curator—Art to become the part-time Education Co-ordinator; Ms Julia Clark, Curator—Anthropology, resigned in December to take up a position as Head of Exhibitions at the Western Australian Museum; Mr Bill Bleathman was appointed Manager Public Programs and Operations; Mr Tim Knight was transferred to the position of Bursar at Sorell High School.

The Director Museum Services chaired the organising Committee of the very successful national conference held in Hobart, 1–3 December, CAMA 93: *Common Threads : Diverse patterns — Uniting Australia’s Museum Associations*; 308 delegates attended. The Director was appointed to the Commonwealth Government’s national exhibition touring funding body *Visions Australia*

The concept plan for the strategic development of the TMAG was developed by a Steering Committee in preparation for future public consultation. In March, the Prime Minister announced the Federal Government’s intention to negotiate the sale of the the Customs House with the State Government for use by the Museum. An outcome is expected from these deliberations in 1994.

The 1992/3 State Budget provided a grant for recurrent services and staff of \$1 897 000. This includes the salaries for 36.88 FTE staff.

The Museum and Art Gallery has made substantial progress in the computerisation of all its records. There are some 19 computers for staff use, including a Macintosh Quadra, scanner and video input capacity for graphic work and desktop publishing.

The International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples was celebrated with the launching by Jim Everett, President of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, of a set of reproductions of the drawings of Tasmanian Aborigines by Thomas Bock.

The Piguinit exhibition was well received in Hobart, Sydney and Perth in 1993.

Other major exhibitions in 1993 organised by TMAG included *Visions of the Frozen South — Artists in Antarctica; Arnhem Land Dreaming — Bark Paintings from Tasmanian Collections; From Village to Vase* in conjunction with the Garden Historical Society; *Translations — Rick Amor, Geoffrey De Groen and David Keeling; Australian Sculpture from the Collection; Contemporary Photography from the Collection; City of Hobart Award for Sculpture; On the Go — women adventurers of the 20s and 30s*.

Travelling exhibitions included *David Strachan Retrospective* from Art Gallery of New South Wales; *Windswept — Classic maritime photography from the Rosenfeld collection* from the National Maritime Museum; *Completing the Picture — Women Painters of the Heidelberg School* from Art Moves; *Skeletons* from Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery; *Split Enz*, costumes from the Performing Arts Museum, Melbourne; *Daughters of a Dreaming — Koorie Women*, Museum of Victoria; *Capturing the Orient — Hilda Rix-Nicholas and Ethel Carrick-Fox*, City of Mt Waverley Gallery.

Work continued on the design of *Antarctica Secrets of the Frozen South*, a joint travelling exhibition project with the Museum of Victoria, sponsored by the Australian Antarctic Foundation, due to open in May 1994.

During the calendar year 1993 a total of 111 128 visitors attended the Museum and Art Gallery, an increase of 7% when compared with 104 000 in 1992. This can be attributed to an increasing public profile for the TMAG and the exceptional interest in the *Skeletons* exhibition from QVMAG.

The number of visitors to the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum in Zeehan was estimated at about 78 000 for 1993, a considerable reduction attributed to the decline in tourism and the recession.

On 2 October 1993, Mr George Smith, Chairman of the West Coast Pioneers Memorial Museum since 1968, died at his home in Zeehan, aged 94. Mr Smith will be sadly missed. It will be difficult to match his dedication to the West Coast Pioneers Memorial Museum and his commitment and contribution to the vision for its future development.

Mr J. E. Tomlinson AO was elected by the Council to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Mr Tomlinson reports on the year's activities:

The RTBG has adopted the following mission statement: "The mission of the RTBG is to maintain a dynamic botanical collection for scientific study, education and conservation which is accessible to meet public aesthetic, passive recreation and tourist values."

Visitors for the 12 months to June 1993 were 294 058, which was slightly down on the previous year.

The Tulip Festival was another successful event. Although planted at the same time, in 1992 the worry was that they would not bloom in time; in 1993 the worry was that they would be finished. However, enough remained to make the usual fine show.

1993 was the 175th anniversary of the gardens and a number of events were held to celebrate this. The major event was a special weekend in March organised by Alderman Darleen Haigh with an active committee. Friday night was a soiree for invited guests, Saturday was a Victorian garden party with music and entertainment and Sunday was a family fun-day. A number wore period costumes to add to the colour.

The Second International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens was held in Hobart from 3–8 May with 100 delegates from 35 different countries. The RTBG played an active role.

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation held its first conference in Hobart, 5–8 December, hosted by the RTBG.

Zootango Theatre again held performances in the Gardens — *Alice in Wonderland* and *As You Like It*.

Mrs Dorothy Baker retired in June after being trustee for 26 years and Alderman Darlene Haigh resigned in November. Neither have yet been replaced.

Twenty months after the untimely death of our superintendent, a Director was finally appointed. Dr David Bedford took up his appointment in October to the delight of Jim Cane, who has done a sterling job in the intervening months in addition to his other duties. David comes with a wealth of experience, having just completed 13 years with the Royal Botanic Gardens of Sydney. He is settling in quickly and coming to grips with the needs of the gardens. We wish him and his family a long and happy stay in Tasmania.

Acknowledgements

The Council is grateful for help generously given by many individuals and organisations. In particular, the lecturers, the Government of Tasmania, the University of Tasmania, Arts Tasmania, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery are specially thanked for their support and cooperation.

The Society is indebted to our Senior Vice-President, Mr John Hayton, for his very active and innovative leadership. As a consequence of his appointment to a diplomatic post, he departed Tasmania in August for a three-year term in New York. His drive, ideas and activities have invigorated the society.

It was with great regret that it was learned that our Honorary Treasurer for more than a decade, Mr Tim Knight, would not be standing for election in 1994. His services to the Society have been very considerable and he has helped greatly in many ways outside his duties as Treasurer. His support of the Society is greatly appreciated.

We are grateful for the dedicated help given by members of the Council during the year.

M.R. Banks
A/Senior Vice President

P.N. Sabine
Honorary Secretary

February 1994

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 December 1993

Accumulation Account

Balance 1 January 1993		96 163.68
<i>Add</i>	Increased valuation of publications	<u>4 892.30</u>
		101 055.95
<i>Deduct</i>	Decreased cash at bank	33 166.56
	Net increase in advance subscriptions	151.00
	Net transfer to Trust Funds	728.46
		<u>34 046.02</u>
Balance 31 December 1993		<u>\$67 009.96</u>

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1993

<i>1992</i>		<i>1993</i>
96 164	Accumulated Funds	67 009.96
126	Subscriptions in advance	277.00
	Trust Funds:	
2 295	– Clive Lord Memorial Fund	2 356.49
4 876	–A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	5 005.38
2 315	–Morton Allport Memorial	2 377.17
886	–A.A. Clark Bequest	909.45
2 473	–Joseph Milligan Bequest	2 538.51
3 298	–R.M. Johnston Memorial Fund	3 385.67
1 359	–Henry Oliver Bequest	1 395.41
3 176	–W.H. Hudspeth Memorial	3 260.16
<u>6 738</u>	–Life Membership Fund	<u>6 916.68</u>
<u>\$123 706</u>		<u>\$95 431.88</u>

Represented by:

33	Cash on hand	33.00
	Cash at bank:	
61 715	–General account	28 393.46
4 889	– <i>Papers and Proceedings</i> account	4 993.50
1 079	–Clive Lord Memorial Fund	1 099.39
1 525	–A.N. Lewis Memorial Fund	<u>1 555.53</u>
860	Mortgage Loan	36 041.88
7 000	Interest bearing deposits	860.00
15 000	Library (at valuation for insurance)	7 000.00
26 005	Publications (at selling prices)	15 000.00
<u>5 600</u>	Medals (at selling price)	30 897.00
<u>\$123 706</u>		<u>5 600.00</u>
		<u>\$95 431.88</u>

The Society owns works of art which have been donated over the years and which do not appear on the Balance Sheet. They are all housed in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and are covered by that organisation's insurance. A catalogue listing these works of art is available to members.

P. Sabine
Honorary Secretary

T.A.H. Knight, B.Bus. CPA
Honorary Treasurer

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
Statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 December 1993

General Account

Balance 1 January 1993		61 715.92	
<i>Receipts</i>			
Subscriptions			
268 @ \$30	8 040.00		
101 @ \$18	1 818.00		
22 @ \$12	264.00		
Other years	<u>961.00</u>	11 083.00	
Publication sales		25 628.21	
Interest		1 683.33	
Interest - other		61.25	
Grants		5 000.00	
Donations		335.00	
Book launch		2 989.35	
Postage		<u>10.00</u>	
		<u>46 790.14</u>	\$108 506.06
<i>Payments</i>			
Printing and stationery		1 594.22	
Postage		1 982.82	
Post box rental		180.00	
Library books and subs		2 233.75	
Telephone		41.20	
Bank duties and charges		74.39	
Attendant fees		998.97	
Secretarial fees		1 500.00	
Northern Branch subsidy		1 500.00	
Insurance		483.56	
Meetings and lectures		417.40	
Medal engraving		36.50	
Publications			
<i>Papers and Proceedings</i>	10 254.38		
<i>Walk to the West</i>	39 367.31		
World Heritage Symposium	<u>15 512.58</u>		
		65 134.27	
Refunds		240.00	
Book launch	3 021.30		
Advertising flyers	<u>674.22</u>	<u>3 695.52</u>	
		80 122.60	
Balance 31 December 1993		<u>28 393.46</u>	\$108 506.06

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA (NORTHERN BRANCH)
Statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 December 1993

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Payments</i>	
Subscriptions	72.00	Subscriptions to Hobart	90.00
Suppers	25.10	Printing and Stationery	165.77
Grant	1500.00	Theatrette hire	0.00
Bank interest	2.97	Postage	337.50
Miscellaneous (dinner)	<u>573.00</u>	Post box	37.00
	2173.07	Secretarial	201.25
		Bank charges	4.30
		Suppers	46.25
		Sundries	<u>775.00</u>
Balance at Trust Bank	<u>0.13-</u>	Balance	1657.07
	\$2172.94		<u>515.87</u>
			\$2172.94